

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): B10

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

12/3/79

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AK349

December 3, 1979

Mr. David M. Henschel

[ B6 ]

Dear Mr. Henschel:

I have been asked to reply to your letter of October 29 to President Carter concerning the problem of disappearances in Argentina.

We have been deeply concerned about human rights in Argentina. President Carter discussed this issue with President Videla in September 1977 and Secretary Vance raised this question when he visited Argentina in November of that year. In addition, both our Embassy in Buenos Aires and the Department are in frequent contact with officials of the Argentine Government on this issue. Inquiries on hundreds of cases of disappeared and detained people have been presented by our Embassy to the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

To give substance to our concerns, Argentina has been prohibited from participating in the Foreign Military Sales Program and military equipment items on the munitions control list may not be exported to Argentina. We have opposed loans in the multilateral development banks for Argentina that do not satisfy our criteria for meeting basic human needs and we have carefully reviewed exports to Argentina of items requiring a Commerce Department export license.

Be assured that we remain concerned about the human rights situation in Argentina and will continue to press for improvements at all appropriate levels of the Argentine Government.

Sincerely,

Gerald J. Whitman  
Argentine Desk Officer  
Office of East Coast Affairs

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